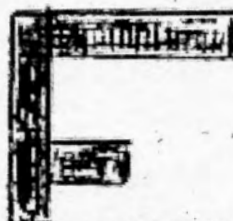


SEAT

THE



MISSISSIPPI



FREEDOM



DEMOCRATIC



PARTY



EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE
MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Student Non-Violent Coordinating Comm
Congress of Racial Equality
Mississippi Project Parents Committee
and members of
Nat. Conf. for Civil Rights Action.

MONDAY, AUGUST 24th, 1964.

Dear fellow delegates, MFDP members and friends of the civil rights struggle.

We have worked for years trying to register Negro voters in the state of Mississippi. Last year Medgar Evers was brutally murdered while trying to register Negro voters in the state of Mississippi. Just 8 weeks ago, James Chaney, Mickey Schwerner and Andrew Goodman were murdered trying to register Negro voters in Mississippi. In spite of bombings, beatings and the burning of our houses and churches, we have managed to register 83,000 voters to vote in Mississippi! And they would have voted had they not been denied their rights by the State of Mississippi! We have paid in blood for the right to participate in the political process. We have been beaten, abused and shunted aside for too long. We demand the right to have what all citizens of the United States have: the right to participate in the political process of this nation! We are 48 percent of the population of Mississippi. We demand equal representation at the ballot box. We have chosen 68 delegates to the convention. If the state of Mississippi refuses to seat these Negro delegates, then their delegates should not be seated. We need to take our case to the convention as a whole. If we can get a fair hearing by the whole convention we are certain to be seated. We cannot let a small group of insiders in a back room decide our fate. We are not here to compromise. We are here to be seated as we rightfully deserve. They will try and get us to back down. They will question our loyalty. They will say maybe next time. The time is now!

On Saturday, August 22 at 2:00 PM, there will be a hearing of the credentials committee. We must be there in force to make our case and show support for our delegation. Our strategy is "11 and 8": if we can just get 11 members of the Credentials Committee to support us, we will get the right to be heard in front of the whole convention. Then if only 8 states demand a recorded vote, all the delegates in the convention will have to go on record as to how they stand: if they don't support us, they will be on record as supporting the racist authorities of the state of Mississippi! We must then surely be seated! Please be there in force to show your support.

Aaron Henry, Chairman of the MFDP delegation

Rev. Edwin King, Vice Chairman of the MFDP delegation.

Fannie Lou Hamer, Vice Chairman of MFDP delegation